

HOLLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
LINCOLNSHIRE.

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

10, PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD

Annual Report

ON THE

County Health Services

PART 1.

Report of the School Medical Officer by

W. G. BOOTH, M.D., D.P.H.

1944.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The new Education Act makes this report the last under the old arrangements and the new arrangements are expected to merge into the new National Health service as soon as this comes into operation. Meanwhile we shall continue to carry out our duties as best we can under war-time conditions. The end of the European war has made conditions no easier so far but it is hoped that we shall soon have our staff back and shall be able to carry out useful investigations and research in the field as before the war.

This report is naturally mainly statistical in character and shows clearly that in spite of all the difficulties we have managed to maintain a fairly good service in the schools. The condition of many schools in the County is well known to the Committee and, until new schools can be built, it will be difficult to hold up school premises as an example of the way of life to the mass of Holland school children. Good premises do not necessarily make a good service, but good personnel certainly are the basis of any service. The Council cannot expect good personnel to work in some of the schools in the County, and I would strongly urge a concentration on this problem at the earliest practicable moment. It will show dividends in both the education and the health of the school children.

May I again take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the loyal and excellent work performed by the staff.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. BOOTH.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE SUB-COMMITTEE
1944.

Chairman :

Mr. G. L. NUSSEY, J.P.

Ex-Officio :

Alderman SIR JOHN GLEED, M.A., D.L., J.P.

Alderman T. KITWOOD, J.P.

Alderman E. H. GOOCH.

Coun. G. W. CHATTERTON	Mr. J. F. ALEXANDER
„ O. DRACASS	Mr. L. J. DRIVER
„ R. LEGGOTT	Mrs. W. F. HOWARD
„ P. LOUGHLIN	Mr. H. H. MORRIS
„ C. R. THOMPSON	Rev. Canon B. G. NICHOLAS*
„ E. E. WELBY-EVERARD	Rev. H. SPENDELOW*
„ E. WRISDALE	Miss E. A. SWAIN

(*It is reported with regret that both these members have since died).

REPORT.

STATISTICS RELATING TO MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Area of County	267,936 acres
Population of Administrative County (1931 Census)	92,313
Population of Administrative County (estimated mid-year)	92,030
Number of School Departments :—	

Provided	51
Non-Provided	37
	—
	88
	—

Number of Children on Books (31st December, 1944) 9,443

Average attendance year ending 31st December, 1944 8,409

No. of School Attendance Officers on 31/12/44 5

Cost of School Medical Inspection for year ended December 31st
1944 :—

	£	s.	d.
Gross Payments	8846	11	9
Receipts	1827	6	8
Net Expenditure	7,019	5	1

Grant from Board of Education for year ended 31st December,
1944 4,429 12 0

General Education Rate, Financial Year, 1943-44 (Element-
ary) 4s. 3½d.

Medical Inspection Rate 3d. (approx.)

Product of 1d. Rate for Education Purposes for Financial year
1943-44 £902

1. STAFF OF SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE, 1944.

School Medical Officer :

W. G. BOOTH, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy School Medical Officer :

J. FIELDING, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officers :

*A. C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

IRIS M. CULLUM, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

MARY C. DONOVAN, M.B., B.Ch.

Orthopaedic Surgeon :

R. E. M. PILCHER, F.R.C.S.

School Dental Officers :

*C. A. JOHNSTON, L.D.S. (Edin.).

*A. D. HENDERSON, L.D.S. (Edin.), D.P.D.

Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon :

A. H. BRIGGS, M.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.

Aural Surgeon (Part Time) :

J. J. RAINFORTH, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

School Nurses :

Miss A. D. BLACK

Miss H. M. LEWIS

Mrs. BOWERS

Miss A. Q. LINNELL

Miss E. ENSOR

Mrs. M. MEACHAM

Miss E. HALLWORTH

Miss H. E. SPENCER

Miss M. A. KINGSTON

Orthopaedic Nurses :

Miss A. BOYD

Miss W. BOARDMAN

Dental Nurses :

Miss M. SIMPSON

Miss J. M. STARKEY

Chief Clerk :

W. INGRAM.

The following have been employed in a temporary capacity :—

P. Coffey, M.D., D.P.H., Asst. School Medical Officer (commenced 26th Feb., 1942).

Betty M. White, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Asst. School Medical Officer,, part-time).

N. Gerson, L.D.S., Temporary School Dentist in the place of Mr. A. D. Henderson (on War Service).

Miss C. S. Wells, L.D.S. (Temporary School Dentist in the place of Mr. C. A. Johnston (on War Service).

*Indicates on War Service.

II.—Co-ordination.

Adequate co-ordination exists as the control of all the County medical services is in the hands of the County Medical Officer.

III.—Medical Inspection.

The medical inspection of all children in the routine age groups—entrants, intermediates, and leavers—has been continued ; also of special cases referred by head teachers or parents. There was an increase (734) in the number of children examined in the routine age groups, the number being 3,370. Special examinations and re-inspections numbered 3,017.

IV.—School Hygiene.

Routine reports on the sanitary conditions of the schools and on the condition of air raid shelters have been made by the Assistant School Medical Officers in the course of their visits to schools. Although defects are remedied as far as circumstances permit, much remains to be done.

V.—Findings of Medical Inspection—Effect of the War on the Physical and Mental Condition of the Children.

The statistical tables appear at the end of the report. Skin diseases have been prevalent but not to the same extent as in the previous year.

The figures for nutrition show no significant change from the previous year and would appear to indicate that there is no falling off in the physical condition of the children. Arrangements for a comprehensive scheme for school meals are progressing in spite of many difficulties.

VI.—Treatment.

Normal facilities for treatment have been available throughout the year ; this is shown in more detail in the following sub-sections :—

Minor Ailments.

The major part of the treatment for minor ailments is given at the established clinics, but treatment is also given at the schools and in the homes if necessary. 1,142 cases were dealt with during the year. The number of attendances at the clinics at Spalding, Donington, Holbeach and Swineshead was 2,162.

Dental Service.

The school dental service was continued with two dentists, one stationed at Boston and the other at Spalding.

Mr. N. Gerson reports on the work in the Northern part of the County as follows :—

“ I beg to submit my report on the School Dental Service for the year ended 31st December, 1944.

In spite of war time difficulties complete continuity of treatment was carried out in the new established clinic situated at No. 4, London Road, now called the “ Health Centre.” The main advantage of the transfer from the Sanatorium undoubtedly lies in the fact that all School and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are centralised under “ one roof ”—a much better and simplified plan for arrangements to be made for routine dental examination. The condition of the children’s teeth is excellent and with a very high percentage of sound mouths.

This report gives the main statistical data with explanatory additions under separate headings.

SCHOOL INSPECTIONS.

Once again, for the second year in succession it has been found possible to complete a bi-annual inspection of every school child. Such examinations revealed a 55.1% of sound mouths as compared with last year’s figures of 53.7%.

PARENTAL REFUSALS.

These refusal cases are indeed a source of great worry to the Dental Service. Paradoxically, as it seems, a great percentage of parents actually accept treatment at the time but refrain from allowing their children to attend when appointments are made for them. In my opinion instead of positive parental acceptance being required in the future in order to carry out treatment, **positively reasoned refusal** should be necessary in order to evade treatment, the sole exception being where the administration of a general anaesthetic is found to be necessary, when parental acceptance would be required.

EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

Provision for the dental treatment of expectant and nursing mothers is made available from the commencement of pregnancy to the completion of the nursing period, the latter being defined as 12 months, but sad to say only a very few take advantage of the scheme.

It is impossible to over-estimate the value of skilled dental advice and care for expectant mothers. The foundations of a sound normal dentition with teeth clothed in well formed enamel are laid in the foetal stages, one of the necessary factors being the possession by the expectant mother of the requisite number of teeth to enable her to obtain the maximum value from the food which she masticates. The other factor of equal importance is the absence of oral sepsis.

I consider up to the present, general arrangements are quite adequate for the few mothers who present themselves for treatment but the interest or drive behind those arrangements appears for the most part to be sporadic.

GAS ADMINISTRATIONS.

56 fewer anaesthetics were administered compared with last year's figures and 368 less teeth were extracted of which 148 were permanent teeth and 220 temporary ones.

In conclusion may I take this opportunity of thanking the Medical Officer of Health, Anaesthetists, Dental Nurses, Head Teachers, Staffs of the various schools, the Office Staff, the Voluntary Ambulance Drivers and all those whose co-operation has been so helpful during the year."

	1943	1944
Children inspected	8336	8131
Children found to require treatment	3854	3549
Number of attendances for treatment	1085	1095
Number of sessions for treatment	134	146
Number of sessions for inspection	88	75
Number of extractions (permanent teeth)	301	153
Number of extractions (temporary teeth)	1244	1024
Number of fillings (permanent teeth)	500	327
Number of fillings (temporary teeth)	119	44
Number of other operations	440	168
Number of administrations of general anaesthetics	327	271

Miss S. C. Wells reports on the work in the south of the County as follows :—

" I herewith submit my Annual Report on the School Dental Service (South Holland Area) for the year ended 31st December, 1944.

During the year all the schools in the area were inspected and 43% of sound mouths recorded among those children having regular school treatment. This is quite a satisfactory figure when one considers that there is a period of at least a year between each inspection.

The most gratifying feature of the year has been the rise in the acceptance rate in almost all the schools, the average figure now being 57% acceptance. This is a vast improvement on last year's deplorable figure of only 30% acceptance and has certainly contributed a great deal towards making the year's work worth while. Needless to say, the age-old prejudice against fillings is still with us and therein we find the reason for a large number of the refusals. Even where front teeth require it, it is an amazing fact that parents will still refuse to have conservative treatment.

Valuable time was lost during the year owing to the " staggered holiday " system in the schools. Frequently during the summer months we arrived at a school to carry out treatment, only to find that it had been closed at very short notice or that perhaps 50% of the children were absent because of the extra seasonal land work.

I take this opportunity to make a suggestion. I feel that both parents and the Dental Surgeon would find it much more satisfactory if the treatment followed the inspections as soon as possible, especially in the case of children who require extractions under a general anaesthetic. Parents frequently express the desire for this and I think that, as far as it is practicable, the appointments and inspections should be so arranged that one school is completed before another is started upon.

The figures for the year's work are tabulated below. It will be seen from them that conservative treatment amounted to a total of 1013 fillings and 601 other operations (includes scaling, gum treatments and temporary dressings, etc.),. Extractions numbered 1587 and the number of general anaesthetics administered amounted to 568.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to the members of the Public Health Staff, Teachers and to Miss Starkey for their help and co-operation during the year."

Children Inspected	....	....	....	....	....	....	4975
Children requiring treatment	....	....	....	....	....	....	3110
Number of sessions for treatment		....	....	....	....	....	329
Number of attendances made by the children			....	....	....	....	2234
Number of Fillings (Permanent)	....	....	....	....	....	....	747
Number of Fillings (Temporary)	....	....	....	....	....	....	266
Number of Extractions (Temporary)		....	....	....	....	....	1390
Number of Extractions (Permanent)		....	....	....	....	....	197
Number of other operations	....	....	....	....	....	....	601
Number of General Anaesthetics given			....	....	....	....	568

Orthopædic Scheme.

Thirty Orthopædic Clinics were held at the Centres at Boston, Spalding and Holbeach. During 1944, 176 children were seen at the clinics and the number of attendances made was 352.

The following table shews the classification of cases according to the nature of the disease :—

Tuberculosis (Surgical).

Tubercular glands of neck	....	....	....	....	13
Tuberculosis of bones or joints	....	....	....	....	7
Observation cases	....	....	....	....	1

Non-Tuberculous Conditions.

Postural deformities of spine	....	....	....	....	17
Rachitic deformities	....	....	....	....	12
Paralytic deformities	....	....	....	....	2
Congenital deformities of foot	....	....	....	....	20
Torticollis	....	....	....	....	8
Spina Bifida	....	....	....	....	2
Congenital dislocation of hip	....	....	....	....	2
Naevus	....	....	....	....	4
Hallux valgus, hammer toes, etc.	....	....	....	....	5
Osteomyelitis	....	....	....	....	8
Hernia	....	....	....	....	1
Poliomyelitis	....	....	....	....	4
Flat Feet	....	....	....	....	13
Fractures	....	....	....	....	13
Undescended testes	....	....	....	....	8
Cervical adenitis	....	....	....	....	4
Webbed fingers	....	....	....	....	1
Other conditions	....	....	....	....	21

50 cases (excluding tuberculous patients) received in-patient treatment. Other cases requiring special treatment were dealt with at out-patient clinics or in their own homes by the orthopædic nurses.

Defective Vision.

Regular weekly eye clinics have been held at Boston and Spalding, and monthly sessions at Holbeach and Sutton Bridge. Adequate arrangements are thus available, except for a few isolated districts, for the examination and supervision of all children with visual defects. Spectacles have been supplied and repairs and renewals have been carried out as required.

Special cases have been referred to the Consultant, Mr. Briggs. 57 cases were dealt with in this way. Operative treatment for visual defect was provided in 3 cases.

113 Eye Clinics were held during the year and the number of attendances was 1,926 ; this included pupils from Secondary Schools.

The following is the list of defects found in new cases and cases kept under observation from previous years.

Hypermetropia	....	....	....	....	....	....	154
Myopia and Myopic Astigmatism	....	....	....	....	....	....	236
Mixed Astigmatism	....	....	....	....	....	....	32
Convergent Squint	....	....	....	....	....	....	189
Divergent Squint	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
Ptosis	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Cataract	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Conjunctivitis	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
Blepharitis	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
Nystagmus	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Congenital Defects	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Phlyctenular Disease	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Others	....	....	....	....	....	....	9

Tonsils and Adenoids.

315 elementary and 8 secondary school children received operative treatment under the Authority's scheme during the year and 8 children received other forms of treatment. The arrangements for operative work to be carried out at the Holbeach Emergency Hospital in addition to the Boston and Spalding General Hospitals have enabled prompt treatment to be provided.

Defective Hearing and Ear Diseases.

Eight cases were referred to the Consultant under the prevention of deafness arrangements and the prescribed treatment was carried out.

Nutrition.

The tables at the end of the report classify the children in three groups. 96.7% were classified as of excellent or normal nutrition.

Tuberculosis.

190 attendances were made by school children at the two dispensaries in the County. 23 cases received in-patient treatment during the year.

Uncleanliness.

During the year, 33,399 examinations of children were made at school.

The number of children found verminous was 448, compared with 704 in 1943. The infestation is invariably a family affair, and to clean certain children means only a temporary success as the parents and those over school age re-infest the children.

A cleansing station has been established in Spalding by the Spalding Urban District Council, and some children have been admitted to the Wyberton West Hospital, Boston, for cleansing. Another cleansing station was established in Boston for the cleansing of families in the Borough and Boston Rural District.

2 cases of scabies have received in-patient treatment at the Wyberton West Hospital, Boston, during 1944, and 19 at Freiston Hall Sick Bay.

78 scabies cases attended the Minor Ailments Clinics.

VII.—Infectious Diseases.*School Closure.*

No school was closed during the year on account of epidemic illness. 16 certificates were given in respect of schools where the attendance had fallen below 60 per cent.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The arrangements have been continued whereby children may be immunised at the time of school inspections by members of the County Medical Staff. The protective treatment may also be given at the nearest welfare centre if any considerable delay is likely to occur. 539 children were immunised during the year. The estimated school population immunised at the end of 1944 was :—

Spalding Urban	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	87%
Boston Rural	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	90%
East Elloe Rural	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	79.5%
Spalding Rural	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	73%

VIII.—Physical Education.

Physical education in the County is in the hands of the organisers, Miss Campbell and Mr. Mackay, and has continued to make satisfactory progress.

IX.—Supply of Milk.—Provision of Meals.

Liquid milk is supplied to 74 elementary schools, cocoa at 6 schools, and no provision is made at 12 schools. When a return was taken on 1st November, 1944, the number of children present was 8,930, of whom 5,637 were receiving milk. This included free supplies in 489 cases. Milk is also available at the Secondary Schools.

There has been no expansion of the Scheme for the provision of mid-day meals in the schools. At the close of the year, such meals were available for the children at 11 schools, the total average number of meals supplied daily being approximately 1,183.

X.—Co-operation of Parents, Teachers, School Attendance Officers and Voluntary Bodies.

Approximately 45% of the parents were present at the routine medical inspections. Head Teachers have continued to co-operate in every possible way which has assisted the smooth working of the arrangements.

The Inspectors of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children have dealt promptly with the cases referred to them :—

Defects of vision	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Uncleanliness	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
General Neglect	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Other Reasons	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3

XI.—Special Children.

In addition to the cases at the Special School at the County Emergency Hospital, Boston, 3 blind children, 7 deaf and dumb children, 2 epileptics and 2 mental defectives are attending out-county special schools.

The Sick Bay at Freiston Hall, nr. Boston, which was taken over by the County Council, received convalescent children and public assistance cases. Accommodation is available for 25 children.

XII.—Secondary Schools.

The usual inspections were carried out at the five Secondary Schools in the County. Statistical tables relating to these inspections are given at the end of this report.

TABLE I.

Return of Medical Inspections.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

						Number inspected.
Entrants	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1397
Second Age Group	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1156
Third Age Group	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	817
Special Inspections and Re-inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3017
Total					.....	<u>6387</u>

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Entrants	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	385
Pupils attaining 13 years	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	154
Pupils attaining 15 years	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	143
Special Inspections and Re-inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	327
Total					.....	<u>1009</u>

TABLE II.

Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions.

(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4.9
(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the schools by School Nurses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	33,399
(iii) Number of individual children found unclean	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	448
(iv) Number of children cleansed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	181
(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken						5

TABLE III.

Classification of the Nutrition of Holland and Evacuee Children inspected during the year in the Routine Age Groups.

Age Groups	Number of Children Inspected	Nutritional Classification of Children Inspected					
		(A) Excellent		(B) Normal		(C) Slightly Sub-normal	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS							
Entrants	1397	100	7.1	1267	90.8	30	2.1
Second Age Group ..	1156	93	8.0	1016	87.9	47	4.0
Third Age Group ..	817	61	7.3	727	89.0	29	3.6
Total	3370	254	7.5	3010	89.3	106	3.1
SECONDARY SCHOOLS							
Entrants	385	58	15.1	321	83.4	6	1.5
Attaining 13 years ..	154	14	9.1	138	89.6	2	1.3
Attaining 15 years ..	143	32	22.4	111	77.6	—	—
Total	682	104	15.3	570	83.8	8	1.2

TABLE IV.

Treatment Tables.

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS.

Disease or Defect	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year		
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
	Holland Children and Evacuees		
Skin—			
Ringworm—Scalp	4	—	4
Ringworm—Body	15	—	15
Scabies	91	5	96
Impetigo	105	8	113
Other Skin Diseases ..	82	3	85
Minor Eye Defects	80	5	85
Minor Ear Defects	83	1	84
Miscellaneous			
(e.g. minor injuries, bruises, sores, &c.)	682	—	682
Total	1142	22	1164

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (EXCLUDING MINOR EYE AILMENTS).

Number of Defects dealt with						
	Under the Authority's Scheme		Otherwise		Total	
	Element'y Schools	Secondary	Element'y Schools	Secondary	Element'y Schools	Secondary
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) ..	455	65	6	9	461	74
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes)	9	—	—	2	9	2
Total	464	65	6	11	470	76
Number of Children for whom glasses were pre- scribed and obtained ..	326	43	6	10	332	53

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

Number of Defects					
	Received Operative Treatment			Received other forms of treatment	Total numbers treated
	Under the Authority's Scheme	By Private Practitioner or Hospital	Total		
Elementary Schools	315	—	315	6	321
Secondary Schools ..	8	6	14	2	16

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

	Under the Authority's Scheme			Otherwise			Total number treated
	Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non- residential treatment at an Orthopaedic Clinic	Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non- resident treatment at an Orthopaedic Clinic	
Number of Children Treated	47	3	126	—	—	—	176*

*Some children received both residential and clinic treatment during year.

GROUP V.—DENTAL DEFECTS.

Number of children (including Evacuees) in Elementary and Secondary Schools who were inspected by the dentists :—

	Aged	Elementary Schools	Secondary Schools	Total
Routine Age Groups	5	1316	—	13106
	6	1254	—	
	7	1397	—	
	8	1268	35	
	9	1071	56	
	10	1233	177	
	11	1174	128	
	12	1231	340	
	13	1241	303	
	14	67	248	
	15	4	260	
	16	4	183	
	17	—	110	
	18	—	5	
	19	—	1	

Half-days devoted to inspection .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	146
Half-days devoted to treatment .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	408

	Elementary Schools	Secondary Schools
Children found to require treatment	5897	762
Children actually treated	1846	117
Attendances made by children for treatment	2235	302
Fillings—Permanent Teeth	764	107
Fillings—Temporary Teeth	226	—
Extractions—Permanent Teeth	270	44
Extractions—Temporary Teeth	2073	26
Administrations of general anæsthetics	677	28
Other Operations—Permanent Teeth	168	34
Other Operations—Temporary Teeth	18	54